AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

communicating in a cellular communications network through a dedicated channel comprising both an uplink and a plurality of downlinks;

controlling a flow of data packets by at least one of a server function and a server in a core network; and

keeping up the dedicated channel after a last speech sample packet is sent downlink from the core network by sending post-speech packets for a time of such duration that a new uplink can be established utilizing at least one downlink from the core network,

wherein the at least one of the server function and the server in the core network transmits the post-speech packets to the plurality of downlinks responsive to a packet indicating an end of speech samples from the uplink, wherein at least one post-speech packet includes information intended for a user of at least one receiving terminal, and wherein post-speech packets are also sent to a terminal that used the uplink.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the keeping up of the dedicated channel comprises:

the at least one of the server function and the server determining when the last speech sample packet is sent;

the at least one of the server function and the server sending at least one post-speech packet downlink to receiving terminals; and

determining whether a terminal taking part in ~~the~~ a session needs a new uplink; and

establishing said new uplink.

2

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2 wherein each of the receiving terminals additionally signals the user of the terminal after receiving the last speech sample packet.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2 wherein said post-speech packets are sent downlink 5 to 10 times at intervals of 500 ms at most.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4 wherein after a last post-speech packet the downlink used is released after a delay specific to a cellular network.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the dedicated channel used is kept up in such a manner that at least one post-speech packet is appended to a last speech packet received by the at least one of the server function and the server.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a control unit; and

a memory including software, where the memory and the software are configured, with the control unit, to cause the apparatus at least to:

receive a last speech sample packet from an uplink in a cellular communications network; and

prolong an existence of downlinks by sending post-speech packets to a plurality of downlinks for a time of such duration that at least one new uplink can be established from a receiving terminal,

wherein the post-speech packets are sent to the plurality of downlinks responsive to a packet indicating an end of speech sample from the uplink, and wherein at least one of the post-speech packets includes information intended for a user of at least one terminal

connected to the apparatus, and wherein post-speech packets are also sent to a terminal that used the uplink.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, where the memory and the software are configured, with the control unit, to cause the apparatus to prolong the existence of a downlink by sending the post-speech packets to the at least one terminal connected to the apparatus.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 9, where the memory and the software are configured, with the control unit, to cause the apparatus to send 5 to 10 post-speech packets at intervals of 500 ms at most.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a control unit; and

a memory including software, where the memory and the software are configured, with the control unit, to cause the apparatus at least to

<u>at a core network</u> at least one of recognize or transmit post-speech packets on a packet data channel responsive to a packet indicating an end of speech samples, wherein at least one post-speech packet of the post-speech packets includes information intended for a user of at least one receiving terminal, and wherein the at least one receiving terminal to which post speech packets are transmitted comprises a terminal on an uplink.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, where the memory and the software are configured, with the control unit, to cause the apparatus to perform signaling after receiving a last speech sample packet.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, where the recognized post-speech packets are appended to speech sample packets.

4

15. (Previously Presented) A cellular communications network comprising:

at least one network element; and

a memory including software, where the memory and the software are configured, with the at least one network element, to at least

maintain a dedicated channel between a sending terminal and a plurality of receiving terminals by sending, responsive to a last speech packet from the sending terminal, post speech packets to the plurality of receiving terminals for a time of such duration that a new dedicated channel can be established utilizing said earlier dedicated channel, wherein at least one post-speech packet of the post-speech packets includes information intended for a user of at least one terminal connected to the dedicated channel, and wherein post-speech packets are also sent to a terminal that used the uplink.

16. (Previously Presented) The cellular communications network according to claim 15, where said dedicated channel in the cellular communications network is maintained by sending the post-speech packets, after a last speech packet transmitted, to the at least one terminal connected to the dedicated channel.

17. (Previously Presented) The cellular communications network according to claim 16, where a network element for sending post-speech packets is a server operating in the network.

18. (Previously Presented) The cellular communications network according to claim 17, where the server sending post-speech packets is a router server.

19. (Previously Presented) The cellular communications network according to claim 16, where an element for sending post-speech packets is a terminal ending its transmission.

20. (Previously Presented) The cellular communications network according to claim 16 wherein the dedicated channel is maintained by sending 5 to 10 post-speech packets at intervals of 500 ms at most.

21. (Previously Presented) The cellular communications network according to claim 20 wherein after a last post-speech packet said earlier dedicated channel is arranged to be released after a delay specific to the network.

22. (Previously Presented) A data storage memory encoded with software readable by a data processing device for performing actions for continuing the existence of a dedicated channel in a packet-switched cellular communications network, the actions comprising:

determining when a last speech sample packet is sent uplink and sending at least one post-speech packet to a plurality of receiving terminals responsive to the last speech sample packet, wherein the at least one post-speech packet includes information intended for a user of at least one receiving terminal of the plurality of receiving terminals, wherein post-speech packets are also sent to a terminal that used the uplink, and

determining whether a receiving terminal taking part in a session needs a new uplink, and establishing said uplink.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A computer readable memory encoded with a computer program executable by a processor to perform actions comprising:

communicating in a cellular communications network through a dedicated channel comprising both an uplink and a plurality of downlinks;

controlling a flow of data packets by at least one of a server function and a server in a core network;

keeping up the dedicated channel responsive to a last speech sample packet sent downlink from the core network by sending post-speech packets for a time of such duration that a new uplink can be established utilizing at least one downlink from the core network; and

transmitting the post-speech packets to the plurality of downlinks after receiving a packet indicating an end of speech sample from the uplink, wherein at least one post-speech packet of the post-speech packets includes information intended for a user of a receiving terminal

6

connected to the dedicated channel, and wherein post-speech packets are also sent to a terminal that used the uplink.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer readable memory encoded with a computer program according to claim 24, wherein the keeping up of the dedicated channel comprises:

determining when the last speech sample packet is sent;

sending the at least one post-speech packet downlink to receiving terminals;

determining whether the receiving terminal taking part in a session needs a new uplink; and

establishing said new uplink.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer readable memory encoded with a computer program according to claim 25, wherein each of the receiving terminals additionally signals a user of the terminal after receiving the last speech sample packet.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer readable memory encoded with a computer program according to claim 25 wherein said post-speech packets are sent downlink 5 to 10 times at intervals of 500 ms at most.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer readable memory encoded with a computer program according to claim 27 wherein after a last post-speech packet the downlink used is released after a delay specific to a cellular network.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) The computer readable memory encoded with a computer program according to claim 24 wherein the dedicated channel used is kept up in such a manner that at least one post-speech packet is appended to a last speech packet received by the at least one of the server function and the server.

7